

### In the Claims

Amend claims 1 and 15 as indicated below:

1. (currently amended)      A support structure for stonelike objects on soil, comprising:

a base, said base being bounded by an upper surface and a lower surface;

at least two sets of a plurality of tabs, said tabs being disposed ~~on the~~ above said upper surface of said base at respective opposing edges thereof and being oriented substantially perpendicular thereto said upper surface of said base; and

a plurality of substantially parallel struts disposed ~~on the base~~ above said upper surface of said base substantially perpendicular to said opposing edges, and disposed between and attached to respective tabs of said two sets of a plurality of tabs so as to brace the tabs and receive stonelike objects for support thereof.

2. (original)    The support structure of claim 1, wherein said base comprises a substantially planar frame and intersecting crossmembers connecting the edges of the frame.

3. (original)    The support structure of claim 2, wherein the base is substantially rectangular and has openings for water drainage, tabs within said sets of a plurality of tabs are separated by

substantially V-shaped spaces, and the struts are disposed substantially parallel to one another and are relatively tall in comparison with their width.

4. (original) The support structure of claim 3, wherein at least one of the struts spans the space between the two said sets of a plurality of tabs.

5. (currently amended) The support structure of claim 3, further comprising connectors for attaching adjoining ~~units~~ support structures to each other, the connectors being adapted to allow a plurality of adjacent ~~units~~ support structures to be connected and ~~a multiunit structure so assembled~~ an assembly thereof to be rolled up.

6. (original) The support structure of claim 1, wherein the base is substantially rectangular.

7. (original) The support structure of claim 1, wherein the base has openings for water drainage.

8. (original) The support structure of claim 1, wherein the tabs within said sets of a plurality of tabs are separated by substantially V-shaped spaces.

9. (canceled)

10. (original) The support structure of claim 1, wherein the struts are relatively tall in comparison with their width.

11. (original) The support structure of claim 1, wherein at least one of the struts spans the space between the two said sets of a plurality of tabs.

12. (currently amended) The support structure of claim 1, further comprising connectors for attaching adjoining ~~units~~ support structures to each other.

13. (currently amended) The support structure of claim 12 wherein the connectors are adapted to allow a plurality of adjacent ~~units~~ support structures to be connected and ~~a multiunit structure so assembled~~ an assembly thereof to be rolled up.

14. (original) The support structure of claim 12 wherein the connectors comprise snaps.

15. (currently amended) A method for supporting stonelike objects on soil, comprising;

providing a support structure comprising a base having an upper surface whereon are disposed at least two sets of a plurality of tabs at respective opposing edges thereof and above said upper surface of said base, the tabs being oriented substantially perpendicular to the base and

braced by respective struts, said struts being disposed above said upper surface of said base;

placing the support structure on a support surface; and

placing a stonelike object on the struts of the support structure between the two sets of tabs.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the stonelike object is a headstone.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the base is placed in a portion of the ground beneath the surface of the surrounding ground.

18. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the stonelike object is a component of a retaining wall.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the base is placed on the ground.

20. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the base is placed on another component of the retaining wall.

21. (new) The support structure of claim 3, wherein the height of a plurality of said tabs above said base is greater than the distance separating said plurality of tabs at said base.